Times-Virginian

In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

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EDITORIAL NEWS

Platforms and Economy

Voters who look to the platforms of the major parties for various services and windfalls, should keep in mind the size of the national debt.

It is currently estimated that the national debt approaches $290,000,000,000. This does not mean much to the average taxpayer, but to carry such a debt the United States must pay huge sums of interest each year.

This should interest the taxpayer, for this interest is tax money which the average citizen pays. In 1960, it is estimated that it will cost between nine and one-half and ten billion dollars to pay the interest on the national debt alone.

This is many times the entire budget of the country just thirty years ago. The entire budget today is estimated at 78.3 billion dollars, and therefore an interest bill of about ten billion dollars means that we are paying more money in interest payments alone, and without reducing the national debt one penny, than we are spending on all of our agricultural policies, all foreign aid, on any other one program in the government — other than national defense.

It means that if you are paying $700 to the government, in taxes each year, you are paying $100 just to carry the national debt — which brings no citizen any extra service, and which does not reduce the national debt.

The worst part about this high interest rate is that it will continue indefinitely, since there is no chance of paying off the national debt. However, the national debt could be reduced by several billion dollars per year, and over a long period of time, this would have a great and beneficial effect.

It would probably result in lower interest rates that the government would have to pay, and as the amount was gradually reduced, the interest would likewise become small, er. This tremendous financial burden should be kept in mind by those citizens who seek all sorts of benefits from the federal government, and all sorts of services not now rendered.

A Note on Restocking

This is the time of the year when sportsmen should consider restocking hunting areas. Just as fishermen and pond-owners stock their ponds, hunters and those who own hunting land want game to multiply, should consider restocking their acreage.

This is a practice that has not been followed in the past as much as it should have been. In the old days, when there was a plentiful supply of game and comparatively few hunters, things worked out without much restocking. However, the time has arrived when restocking must be considered a modern necessity, if game conditions are to be maintained as they are today, or even improved.

The restocking of pheasants in some sections of the country, of quail in others, and of other birds and animals, is a process which requires study and careful attention. Pen-reared birds and animals, if they are to have maximum chances for survival when released, should be released under favorable conditions, and should be prepared as well as possible for release.

In the case of quail, an exceptionally adaptable bird and one which can be restocked comparatively easily in all sections of the country, the birds should be put out at an early age, from six to ten weeks old, and should be placed wherethere is sufficient food, water and cover.

Quail are full grown at sixteen weeks and are wild one week after they have been released in the open country. They will not travel far from the point of release if they find food, water and cover.

G. O. P. issued two rights planks, but calls it error.

Britain leads the nation in ships being built.

This Month and History

September has been a fateful month in the recent history of the world. On the first day of this month in 1939, Germany invaded Poland. That was the beginning of World War II.

On the third of September, Great Britain and France declared war on Germany, and it was not until May 8, 1945, after many countries had been drawn into the conflict, that Germany finally surrendered.

Total battle deaths of the countries involved are interesting. For the United Kingdom, 244,723 persons lost their lives. For Germany (including Austria) some 3,500,000 persons lost their lives.

For the United States, which entered in 1941, after being attacked by Japan, and after Hitler declared war on this county on Dec. 7th, 1941, our total battle deaths were 291,557. Of course, the greatest number of deaths occurred in Russia, which Hitler invaded in June of 1941, and estimates run all the way up to 10,000,000 persons—as the number of dead in Russia.

On September 13th, one hundred years ago, General John J. (Black Jack) Pershing was born in Laclede, Missouri. Pershing was destined to lead the American Army in France in World War 1.

Back in 1927, the same year in which Lindbergh flew the Atlantic in May, Babe Ruth hit his sixtieth home-run of the season. That established an all-time record which still stands.

Many other events of September are associated with the fall season.

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THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Bible Material: Micah 2; 4:1-5. Devotional Reading: Psalm 125.

On To Ruin

Lesson for September 18, 1960

"STICK to the Gospel and leave politics alone," is advice often given to preachers. Whether it's good advice depends on what is meant by it. If "Leave politics alone" means that a church should not become a political party, then it is good advice. But if it means that the preacher must never mention anything so worldly and controversial as housing for the poor, wage levels, dirty politics, dishonest police, incompetent judges, or bad leadership in high places, then "Stick to the Gospel" is bad advice.

Dr. Foreman

Upside Down Morals

Not only that, but a preacher shamed or scared into silence about the live issues of his time and community is false to his Bible. The prophets of old were bold preachers. They pointed their fingers at sin wherever they saw it. And when they saw the supposed leaders of their country setting bad examples, when they saw bad foreign policy, when they saw the weak oppressed and the shady characters given the medals, the prophets did not pull their punches or preach soothing sermons about heaven. They preached some of their most powerful sermons straight to the top-flight citizens of their time.

One of the great evils that Micah (for instance) nailed down, was what we call upside-down morals, preached and practiced by influential people. It is much worse when such people get twisted-up about right and wrong, than when obscure people do. A bum in a slum can try to tell you that wrong is right and you pay him no attention. But when rich or famous or powerful people take a wrong slant, you get mixed up. You think, "Well, surely a man as smart [illegible] he is, can't be wrong!"

Robbing the People

Another evil Micah spoke of sharply and plainly can be called in plain language robbing the people. Unfortunately this can be done sometimes quite legally. This means that a wealthy corporation can get wealthier simply by overcharging the consumer—and overcharge is a polite word for stealing. There is a large area in our southern mountains which for years was bare as the Sahara desert, a desolate desparate sight in the midst of green hills and mountains on all sides. A great corporation was letting copper fumes go out from its chimneys unhindered, killing all green things for miles around. It took a long time before the government stopped that. Another mill, manufacturing asbestos, exposed its employees to asbestosis, an incurable disease of the lungs caused by asbestos lint in the air. Many workers died, but it was all perfectly legal . . . till finally the state stepped in and required safety devices that stopped the legal killings. But where was the church? Not a voice was raised, so far as this writer ever heard, against killing either the green countryside or human beings. There were no prophetic preachers, no prophetic churches, to call a spade a spade.

Preaching for Money

The prophet Micah calls out for judgment another kind of leader who only leads on to ruin. That is the kind of prophet (meaning preacher) who preaches to please those who pay him best. This is the worst kind of bad leadership. For the minister of the Gospel is supposed to a man of God, but when he preaches only what his wealthier contributors will approve, then he ceases to be God's spokesman and wears some man's collar. In the very early days of Christianity, just after the New Testament was finished, there was a book which gave regulations and advice for church officers. It seems there were many traveling evangelists and missionaries, then as now, asking for money. This little book gave a rule which was very useful: If the visitor begs for others, he may be genuine; if he begs for himself, throw him out. The preacher out for himself first of all sets an example that pushes his people farther on the road to ruin.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)

Washington Notes

BILL SEEMS DEAD

A Senate - House conference on differing minimum wage bills has collapsed, apparently killing any prospects for such legislation this year.

KENNEDY ORGANIZES

Senator John F. Kennedy has set up a four-man group of national security experts to advise him as President-Elect if he should win in November.

The Democratic Presidential nominee said the committee would undertake nonpartisan consultations on security problems, but its work would be divorced entirely from the partisan campaign.

Those named were: Paul M. Nitze, David K. E. Bruce, Roswell L. Gilpatrick, and James A. Perkins.

U. S. SPURS SPACE SHIP

The government has asked industry's help in designing a maneuverable three-man space ship to fly around the moon and back.

Actual construction of the space ship is tentatively planned for 62-65. The craft will be capable of operating in space for several weeks at a time, under complete control of its crew.

PAYROLL RISES

The Federal Government's civilian payroll rose $307,000,000 in the year ended June 30.

Senator Harry F. Byrd, Democrat, of Virginia, noted that pay increases for government workers effective July 1 were not included in the figure and predicted another increase in the total during the current year.

PAYOLA MEASURE

The House has sent to the White House a bill to penalize broadcasters who deceived the public through radio and television shows.

President Eisenhower was expected to sign the measure promptly.

INVENTOR PAID

The House has passed and sent to the White House a bill to pay Col. John A. Ryan Jr., of the Air Force, $100,000 for developing a low-altitude bombing system and apparatus outside of his working hours.

FOREIGN AID

A bipartisan coalition voted 56 to 31 in the Senate to provide an additional $190,000,000 in foreign aid funds.

Thirty-one Democrats and 25 Republicans voted to add the funds to an omnibus appropriation bill. There were 13 Southern Democrats and 10 other Democrats, and 8 Republicans opposed.

Play safe — drive carefully.

KNOW THE WEATHER

By Edward H. Sims

Why does a weather change so often affect the sinuses or the ears?

When the weather changes, the pressure also changes, as a usual thing. When a clear spell comes to an end and a rainy, low - pressure weather begins, those who experience ear or sinus trouble often experience discomfort.

This is because there are pockets of air in our head, or sinuser, which become blocked off. The pressure inside becomes greater than outside, when the barometer falls (and a low-pressure system arrives overhead) and expands the pockets.

A doctor will open them up, or equalize the pressure. The eustachian tube in the ear is a natural safety valve to allow air in and out of the ear. If it is closed by a swelling or a bad cold, then you risk puncturing your ear drum if you fly at a high altitude.

U. S. doubts Cuba will negotiate differences.

Dominican lawyer urges civilian militia.

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